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INFORMANT REPORT

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COUNTRY Peru

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1. It is reported that the decision of the Peruvian Military Junta to deny a safe-conduct to Haya de la Torre and the resulting threat of international complications have united the Junta and eliminated individual differences for the moment.
2. The convocation of top military, naval, and air force leaders and the submission of the decision concerning Haya for their approval are considered by observers to have been a clever step by Odría. It highlighted the unanimous anti-Aprista position of ranking officers of the armed forces.
3. In spite of the unanimity evidenced in this case, the opinion still prevails that the Junta is not stable. It is believed to be seeking some satisfactory way out which can save the honor of the armed forces and which will not be interpreted in any way as a reflection on their ability to govern the country.
4. The designation of the Electoral Statute Commission partially confirms the persistent rumor that the government now desires elections before the end of 1949. Among possible military candidates, the names of Odría, Llosa and Ureta are most frequently mentioned. If the Junta does not present a military candidate, the civilian now thought to have the greatest chance for support by the government is Dr. Ignacio Brandariz.* He is now reported to be the most influential civilian in government circles, having replaced Pedro Beltrán as the Junta's closest economic advisor.
5. Manuel Prado, according to the Constitution, cannot be a presidential candidate this year, and the consensus is that in spite of his wide influence, he would stand little chance of success if he did not have the support of the present government. There are no indications that this support will materialize.

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* Comment. Brandariz is said to have had strong presidential ambitions in 1939, and to have been very much disappointed when Marshal Benavides failed to support his candidacy at that time. Benavides launched the candidacy of Manuel Prado instead.

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